

RESF-1 Transportation Evacuation and Vehicle Provisioning For Special Needs Populations

Within the National Capital Region (NCR) there exists a need to identify and coordinate the transportation resources to be utilized by special populations during a real-time emergency. These special populations include, but are not limited to the disabled community, tourists, the elderly, and school children.

This effort focuses on the transportation requirements and information needs for “non-traditional” populations to ensure the protective measure evacuation is adequate to meet their needs. This initiative supports the District’s Emergency Transportation Annex (ETA), a plan developed in coordination with regional stakeholders to address transportation management and evacuation processes from an operational perspective.

This initiative cuts across many of the capability boundaries, in particular, Citizen Preparedness and Participation and Citizen Protection, and supports the need for better integrated planning efforts between the various ESFs. Furthermore, this initiative will begin to address the issue of developing a viable operational evacuation plan for regional evacuation that includes special population vehicle provisions.

One resonated weakness identified by the NCR is that there has not been a strong enough outreach to individuals with disabilities and vehicle providers in the NCR in order to match transportation needs with actual vehicle type. This initiative attempts to start that process by identifying and assessing the needs of these groups and rolling up those assessments into patron/vehicle registries as well as identifying and establishing MOUs with public and private regional transportation providers.

Many of the resources needed to support this initiative currently exist within the NCR. The region is fortunate to have a robust and vast Metro Rail and Metro Bus System that interconnects with smaller jurisdiction transit providers within its boundaries. Furthermore, there are a number of commuter rail systems operating within the NCR boundaries, thus providing another layer of transportation infrastructure for daily and emergency incidents.

Where the region falls short is with coordination and integration of these resources, and identifying where there are transportation resource gaps, particularly vehicle provisioning. This initiative will address that issue. Additionally, this initiative will require vehicle support from the private sector in order to ensure that transportation resources meet capacity to move thousands of people who otherwise may not have transportation access. To ensure full buy-in from stakeholder supporting this effort, a series of MOUs/Regional Agreements and vehicle contracts will need to be established.

In closing, this initiative addresses the need for regional collaboration in order to reduce cross-geographic consequences and impacts. Furthermore it will provide an opportunity for cross-ESF interaction in order to capitalize on resources thus leveraging capabilities across our region.

Cost: 500,000 however this is a scalable project